

MAR 22 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD

20 March 1954

FROM: R. S. Cline

SUBJECT: Soviet Estimates Schedule

1. The NSC has levied requirements for estimates of the Soviet situation which the DDI feels can best be met by the following:

a) a critical review of intelligence conclusions about the USSR now set forth in the most recent draft of basic policy paper NSC 162;

b) a brief long-term (5-year) estimate of probable Soviet capabilities and probable major lines of strategic policy;

c) the detailed short-term estimate on Soviet capabilities and courses of action through mid-1956, which is NIE 11-4-54.

2. The tentative deadline for requirements 1(a) and 1(b) above is 1 May, and it certainly cannot be pushed beyond 1 June. While it would be fine to finish requirement 1(c) above, NIE 11-4-54, at the same time, it is less urgently needed for this specific purpose than the brief long-term estimate.

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3. The Staff can review the latest draft of NSC 162 and the Board can issue uncoordinated comments by 1 May without difficulty, satisfying requirement 1(a).

4. It will be impossible to coordinate NIE 11-4-54 by 1 June, let alone 1 May. It will be impossible to write and coordinate a long-term estimate while drafting NIE 11-4-54.

5. The optimum solution would appear to be:

a) proceed forthwith to prepare uncoordinated comments on intelligence content of NSC 162 in latest draft;

b) postpone coordination and publication of NIE 11-4-54 into July or at least until after coordination of a long-term estimate;

c) request the IAC agencies to make their contributions to NIE 11-4-54 on 1 May as presently scheduled;

d) invite the IAC agencies to include in their 1 May contributions any comments they can make at that date as to the applicability of mid-1956 trends for the period through 1959;

e) advise the IAC agencies that during the first week after getting the 1 May contributions we will draft a brief long-term estimate covering the major aspects of probable

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Soviet capabilities and major lines of strategic policy through 1959;

f) advise the IAC that it will be necessary to coordinate this long-term paper on a crash basis, beginning coordination 10 May and aiming at 18 May as the date for IAC approval. The NSC ought to be advised that this is the best we can do.